

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

/066 W

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R 151340Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8666  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SW  
SUBJECT: SWEDISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL WEEK

1. THE FOCUS OF PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE LAST WEEK OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN REMAINS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE BETE NOIRE OF CENTER PARTY LEADER FALLDIN. FALLDIN'S ATTACK, SYMBOLIZED BY THE CENTER'S TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SLOGAN INTO "DON'T VOTE AWAY SECURITY; VOTE AWAY NUCLEAR ENERGY," HAS TO A LARGE EXTENT SUCCEEDED IN FORCING OTHER CAMPAIGN ISSUES INTO THE BACKGROUND.

2. PRIME MINISTER PALME AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE INCREASINGLY FOUND THEMSELVES FORCED TO ANSWER FALLDIN AND HAVE BEEN FRUSTERATED AT THEIR INABILITY TO PUSH ISSUES SUCH AS THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS AS MUCH AS THEY WOULD LIKE. INDEED, MANY OF PALME'S ATTACKS ON THE OPPOSITION HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO

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DISCREDIT FALLDIN, ACCUSING HIM OF "CHEATING" AND

"BLUFFING" IN HIS STATEMENTS ON ENERGY POLICY.  
PALME HAS ALSO CONTINUALLY CHARGED THAT FALLDIN'S  
REJECTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WOULD DEAL A DEATH BLOW  
TO EXPANSION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY, AND JEOPARDIZE  
OTHERS.

3. FALLDIN HAS, HOWEVER, MAINTAINED THE PRESSURE, AND  
IS RIDING A STRONG EMOTIONAL ISSUE. TO PALME'S  
ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT APPARENT OPPOSITION DIFFERENCES,  
FALLDIN RETORTS THAT PALME'S OWN PARTY IS NOT  
UNITED ON NUCLEAR POWER EITHER.

4. THE TWO IMPORTANT DAILIES, SVENSKA DAGBLADET  
AND DAGENS NYHETER, IN MAJOR EDITORIALS SEPTEMBER 9,  
BOTH SOUGHT TO RETURN THE ELECTION DEBATE TO A MORE  
IDEOLOGICAL LEVEL. BOTH PAPERS POINTED OUT THAT THE  
MAIN ISSUE CONCERNS THE CHOICE BETWEEN A SOCIALIST,  
COLLECTIVE SOCIETY AND A MORE OPEN, INDIVIDUALISTIC  
ONE. SVENSKA DAGBLADET WRITES, "THE CHOICE IS CLEAR  
BOTH FOR THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO SOCIALIST  
DEVELOPMENT AND NUCLEAR ENERGY: VOTE  
'BOURGEOIS', WHILE DAGENS NYHETER STRESSES THE  
IMPORTANCE OF 'LIBERAL INFLUENCE ' AND DECLARES THAT  
'IF YOU CULTIVATE A CONTROL IDEOLOGY...A CONTROL  
MENTALITY, THE ENCROACHMENT OF BUREAUCRACY INTO OUR  
LIVES AND THE STIFLING OF ALL INITIATIVE...IS THE  
RESULT."

5. THOUGH DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY, THE OPPOSITION  
PARTIES SEEM TO HAVE THE EMOTIONAL MOMENTUM BEHIND  
THEM. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS CLOSE TO THE SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATS, THE PARTY IS HAVING TROUBLE MAINTAINING  
ITS USUALLY HIGH MORALE AND SOME MEMBERS FEEL  
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET THEIR MESSAGE  
ACROSS TO THE VOTERS. AT THIS JUNCTURE BOTH SIDES ARE HOLDING  
THEIR BREATH ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LAST-MINUTE SURFACING OF ANY  
NEW MAJOR ISSUE. (THIS IS OF COURSE THE REASON FOR EXTREME  
SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE STORY OF GOS PAYMENTS TO THE US AIR FORCE.  
SO FAR THIS DOES NOT LOOK TO BE A MAJOR ELECTION ISSUE,  
ALTHOUGH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT  
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POSSIBILITY. OUR BEST JUDGEMENT NOW IF THAT, BARRING DRAMATIC  
NEW DEVELOPMENTS, THE GOS-US AIR FORCE STORY WILL NOT BE OF  
MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE ELECTIONS.) AND THE MAIN POINT IS  
STILL THAT EVERYONE EXPECTS THE OUTCOME TO BE EXTREMELY CLOSE.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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